

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-26 (canceled).

27. (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to implement functions of coding a motion vector, said functions comprising:

- performing an affine motion estimation to obtain of affine motion parameters;
- converting the affine motion parameters to a predetermined number of translational motion vectors; and
- coding the difference between the converted translational motion vectors of a current block and the converted translational motion vectors of a previous block.

28. (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to implement functions of coding a motion vector, said functions comprising:

- performing an affine motion estimation to obtain affine motion parameters; and
- converting the affine motion parameters to a predetermined number of translational motion vectors.

29. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising quantizing the converted translational motion vectors to fixed-point numbers having a predetermined accuracy.

30. (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to implement functions of decoding a motion vector, said functions comprising:

receiving encoded data;

decoding the received data to obtain translational motion vectors;

converting the obtained translational motion vectors to affine motion parameters; and

performing motion compensation using the obtained affine motion parameters.

31. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein ~~the an~~ image being coded comprises a plurality of blocks, wherein the affine motion parameters are used to determine a motion of each pixel in a block among the plurality of blocks of an the image, wherein the motion varies for the each pixel in the block based on values of the affine motion parameters and a location of the each pixel in the block of the image, and the motion for the each pixel varies independent of motion of the other pixels in the block.

32. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of ~~claim 27~~ claim 31, wherein each of the predetermined number of the translational motion vectors specifies a motion of each of a the plurality of blocks in ~~an the~~ image, wherein the predetermined number of the

translational motion vectors is equal to a number of the plurality of blocks in the image, wherein each of the plurality of blocks includes a plurality of pixels.

33. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein ~~the an~~ image being coded comprises a plurality of blocks, wherein the affine motion parameters are used to determine a motion of each pixel in a block among the plurality of blocks of an the image, wherein the motion varies for the each pixel in the block based on values of the affine motion parameters and a location of the each pixel in the block of the image, and the motion for the each pixel varies independent of motion of the other pixels in the block.

34. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of ~~claim 28~~ claim 33, wherein each of the predetermined number of the translational motion vectors specifies a motion of each of ~~a the~~ the plurality of blocks in ~~an the~~ the image, wherein the predetermined number of the translational motion vectors is equal to a number of the plurality of blocks in the image, wherein each of the plurality of blocks includes a plurality of pixels.

35. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~the an~~ image being coded comprises a plurality of blocks, wherein the affine motion parameters are used to determine a motion of each pixel in a block among the plurality of blocks of an the image, wherein the motion varies for the each pixel in the block based on values of the affine motion parameters and a location of the each pixel in the block of the image, and the motion for the each pixel varies independent of motion of the other pixels in the block.

36. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of ~~claim 30~~ claim 35, wherein each of the obtained translational motion vectors specifies a motion of each of ~~a~~ the plurality of blocks in ~~an~~ the image, wherein a first number of the translational motion vectors is equal to a second number of the plurality of the blocks in the image, wherein each of the plurality of the blocks includes a plurality of pixels.

37. (new): The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the converting the affine motion parameters to the predetermined number of translational motion vectors comprises obtaining motion vectors of the center points of sub-blocks A, B, C, and D of the current block by using $(v_{X,A}, v_{Y,A}) = (a_0 + a_1 \alpha + a_2 \alpha, a_3 + a_4 \alpha + a_5 \alpha)$, $(v_{X,B}, v_{Y,B}) = (a_0 + 3a_1 \alpha + a_2 \alpha, a_3 + 3a_4 \alpha + a_5 \alpha)$, and $(v_{X,C}, v_{Y,C}) = (a_0 + a_1 \alpha + 3a_2 \alpha, a_3 + a_4 \alpha + 3a_5 \alpha)$ based on

$$v_x(i, j) = 1/(2\alpha)(4\alpha - i - j)v_{x,A} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + i)v_{x,B} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + j)v_{x,C}, \text{ and}$$

$$v_y(i, j) = 1/(2\alpha)(4\alpha - i - j)v_{y,A} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + i)v_{y,B} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + j)v_{y,C},$$

where the size of the current block is $S \cdot S$, and the constant α is $S/4 + 1/2$.

38. (new): The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the converting the affine motion parameters to the predetermined number of translational motion vectors comprises obtaining motion vectors of the center points of sub-blocks A, B, C, and D of the current block by using $(v_{X,A}, v_{Y,A}) = (a_0 + a_1 \alpha + a_2 \alpha, a_3 + a_4 \alpha + a_5 \alpha)$, $(v_{X,B}, v_{Y,B}) = (a_0 + 3a_1 \alpha + a_2 \alpha, a_3 + 3a_4 \alpha + a_5 \alpha)$, and $(v_{X,C}, v_{Y,C}) = (a_0 + a_1 \alpha + 3a_2 \alpha, a_3 + a_4 \alpha + 3a_5 \alpha)$ based on

$$v_x(i, j) = 1/(2\alpha)(4\alpha - i - j)v_{x,A} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + i)v_{x,B} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + j)v_{x,C}, \text{ and}$$

$$v_y(i, j) = 1/(2\alpha)(4\alpha - i - j)v_{y,A} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + i)v_{y,B} + 1/(2\alpha)(-2\alpha + j)v_{y,C},$$

where the size of the current block is $S \cdot S$, and the constant α is $S/4+1/2$.